

AMD17-086 4/15/08

**Bell, Leanne S (DOT)**

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n: SWill38776@aol.com  
.: Sunday, April 13, 2008 8:39 PM  
To: DOT STIP  
Subject: (no subject)

I have reviewed the STIP draft amendment #17 and offer the following comments.

Continued funding of the Lynn Canal Highway is a must. However, 10 to 12 years is too long a time frame for this project. Of all the projects that the Department has ever built or proposes to build, this project actually returns money to the State General Fund. The cost difference between maintaining the Lynn Canal Highway and the operating losses in running the ferry system on this segment will add upward of 10 million dollars to the State. The sooner that this project is built the sooner that the savings will occur. With the money already earmarked for this project, 5 years would seem reasonable to complete the funding.

The development of our natural resources depend on transportation links. Alaska's future lies in the development of its natural resources. We have for years been spending our capital dollars on glorified maintenance projects instead of building new roads. Of coarse the reason is lack of maintenance funding so that the State has to prematurely use capital dollars to take care of the problems.

The STIP needs to address the future and the future is getting access to out resources.

Regards,  
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